

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
July 2023



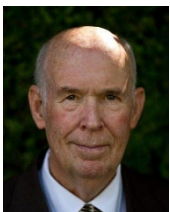
Ronald Neal Hill
March 22, 1940 ~ April 27, 2023

Ronald Neal Hill, age 83, of McCoy, Texas, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, April 27, 2023. He was born on March 22, 1940 in Bessemer City, North Carolina to Ada Shubert and Garnett James Hill.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Garnett and Ada Hill, and siblings, Rodger Hill, Sylvia Morgan, JC Hill, and Betty Koonce.

Ronald is survived by his loving wife of forty-nine years, Evelyn Jones Hill, and children, Jennifer Hill, Wesley Hill, Susan Vlcek, and James Hill.

Editor's note: Mike Dickerson says, "Ronnie hired out on May 9, 1966, and was assigned to the west pool (San Antonio to Del Rio and Eagle Pass) of the San Antonio Division as a trainman, and was subsequently promoted to conductor. He retired on November 20, 2003."



Lee Heber Dearden
February 17, 1935 ~ June 8, 2023

Our loving husband, father, and grandfather, Lee Heber Dearden, passed away on Thursday, June 8, 2023, after a prolonged illness. He was born in Henefer, Utah on February 17, 1935, to Stephen Thomas Dearden and Lenora Ann Stephens.

Lee graduated from Ogden High School and attended Weber State College. He served eight years in the Navy Air Reserve and two years active duty. Afterwards, he began a successful home building business with his two brothers. During that

time, he also started a 38-year career with the Southern Pacific Railroad as a brakeman, later retiring as a conductor.

Lee married the love of his life, Reta Cole, on September 22, 1962, later solemnizing their marriage in the Ogden LDS Temple. They happily celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

We will forever miss Lee's quick wit, ironed handkerchiefs, snappy coveralls (in all colors), infallible handyman skills, and above all, his love and kindness.

Lee is survived by his sweetheart Reta, son Douglas (Sandy) Dearden, daughter Misty (Mark) Bond, and six grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Glen, Ralph and Val and sisters Rose and Veda.

Editor's request: When changing email addresses, please send your new address to billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.



Adrienne Villarel Hafferty
February 7, 1947 ~ June 9, 2023

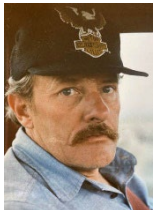
Adrienne Villarel Hafferty, 76, of Sugar Land, Texas, passed away on Friday, June 9, 2023. She was born on February 7, 1947 in Palestine, Texas, to Ethel Jowell and Jurentino Villarel. She has lived in Sugar Land for fifty years. She worked at Southern Pacific and Union Pacific for 41 years until retirement in 2007.

She was passionate about making cards for family and friends that demonstrated her love and

creativity. Adrienne was lovingly called Grammy by her grandchildren and their extended family and friends. She always made family a priority. She will be remembered for her generosity, her strength, but most of all how deeply she loved her family.

Adrienne is preceded in death by her parents and her brother James Villarel.

She is survived by her husband Lonnie Hafferty, son Bradley Stewart, daughter Stacey Zwieback, son in law Mark Zwieback, granddaughter Adrienne Zwieback, grandson Mark Zwieback III, and many others in her extended family.



Douglas Gordon Owen
August 24, 1941 ~ June 12, 2023

Douglas Gordon Owen passed away with his family by his side on June 12, 2023.

Doug was born on August 24, 1941 to Francis and Sarah Owen in Salt Lake City. He grew up and lived in Utah until he moved to Elko, Nevada in 1975. He was a graduate of Weber State University and Great Basin College.

Doug married the love of his life, Carolyn Bailey, in 1961 and together they had five children: Shane, Jim, Sid, Cari, and David. He worked as a signalman maintainer for the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific until his retirement in 2002. In 2006, he attended Western Nevada Community College where he received a certification in home inspection, and then opened and operated Great Basin Home Inspection for ten years.

Doug was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints where he served in various callings. He also served on the Elko City Planning Commission from July 2004 to July 2013 where he enjoyed being a part of the future planning and growth of Elko.

Doug is survived by his wife, Carolyn, of 62 years; children: Shane (Shanell) of Elko, Jim (Tracey) of Elko, Sid (Janie) of Winnemucca, Nevada, Cari (Jim Carpenter) of Elko, and David (Chrissie) of St. George, Utah; sixteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; and sisters: Ann (Ron Bitton), Donna Valerio, and Laura Kierstead all of Ogden, Utah.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents.



Herb W. Iler
May 12, 1935 ~ June 17, 2023

Herb W. Iler of Sparks, Nevada, died on June 17, 2023. He was 88 years old. Herb was born in Morganton, North Carolina on May 12, 1935. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Myrtle Iler of Sparks, Nevada, and one sister, Lela Stead.

Herb lived the majority of his life in Sparks, with his wife Barbara Garson Iler, whom he was married to for 63 years; along with their two daughters, Lori Iler Archibald (Don), and Lynne Iler Burke (Rodney), both of Verdi, Nevada.

He graduated from Sparks High School, Class of 1953. In 1954, he enlisted with the United States Naval Reserves and was discharged in 1960. He then worked for Southern Pacific and retired in 1988, as a locomotive engineer with forty years of service.

Herb enjoyed many summers with his family at Lake Tahoe and later at Donner Lake. He was a very proud grandfather of four loving grandchildren: Brian Leathers, Kathleen Leathers (Nathan), Matthew Archibald, and Morgan Chrisman (Devin).